

IN THE CLAIMS

Please change the heading on page 24 before the claims as follows:

What is claimed is:~~Patent Claims~~

1. (currently amended) An electrical connector comprising:
 - a dielectric housing~~7~~_i
 - a plurality of signal terminals which are arranged in the housing~~7~~_i and
 - at least one ground terminal with at least a first contact section and a first spring arm section, with the first contact section having at least one first and second contact, wherein the first and second contact are mechanically coupled.
2. (original) The connector as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the first and second contact are arranged on the first spring arm section.
3. (original) The connector as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the first and second contact are arranged colinearly or transversely offset.
4. (original) The connector as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the ground terminal is stamped and formed, and the first and second contact each comprise a stamped projection.
5. (original) The connector as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the first contact section comprises a third contact.

6. (original) The connector as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the first spring arm section has a first and second leg and has a recess between the first and the second leg.

7. (currently amended) The connector as claimed in Claim 6, further comprising: a front head section on which the first and second legs are connected to one another, and the first contact is arranged on the head section, the second contact is arranged on the first leg, and the third contact is arranged on the second leg.

8. (original) The connector as claimed in Claim 1, wherein at least two of the first, second and third contacts are longitudinally offset.

9. (original) The connector as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the first spring arm section has a connecting section and a spring section with the spring section being inclined with respect to the connecting section.

10. (currently amended) The connector as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the signal terminals are arranged in a first plane, with one surface of the ground terminal faces the first plane, the ground terminal being ~~is~~ resilient in a transverse direction with respect to the first plane, and the head section is curved in the direction of resiliency.

11. (original) The connector as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the ground terminal has a second spring arm section a second contact section and a shield, with the

shield being arranged between the first and second spring arm section.

12. (original) The connector as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the signal terminals are arranged in pairs, and the distance of the signal terminals within each pair is less than or equal to the distance between signal terminals of adjacent pairs.

13. (currently amended) An electrical connector with ESD capability for a mating connection to a complementary mating connector, comprising:

a dielectric housing τ_i

a plurality of signal terminals which are arranged in the housing τ_i and

at least a ground terminal with at least a first contact section and a first spring arm section, with the first contact section having at least a first and second contact which form a first and a second contact pair, respectively, with a mating ground terminal of the complementary mating connector, ~~with the connector and~~ the complementary mating connector defining a completely mated final position, and the ground terminal is designed such that the first contact pair is opened in said completely mated final position.

14. (original) The connector as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the second contact pair is closed in the final position.

15. (original) The connector as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the connector defines an intermediate position, which is reached before the completely mated final position, during connection to the complementary mating

connector, the first contact pair is closed in the intermediate position, and the second contact pair is opened in the intermediate position.

16. (currently amended) An electrical connector assembly comprising:

a dielectric housing_T;

a plurality of signal terminals which are arranged in the housing_T; and

at least one ground terminal with at least a first contact section and a first spring arm section, with the first contact section having at least one first and second contact, wherein the first and second contact are mechanically coupled_T;

~~the connector as claimed in Claim 1 or 13, and~~

a complementary mating connector.

17. (original) A modular electrical connector assembly, comprising:

a front face with a plurality of openings for receiving mating terminals of a complementary mating connector, a plurality of connector modules each having a dielectric module housing and a plurality of terminals for establishing electrical connections to the mating terminals,

wherein the module housings each having a front face, and the front faces of the module housings together forming the front face of the connector assembly, and a dielectric main housing to which the connector modules are attached.

18. (original) The connector assembly as claimed in Claim 17, further comprising:

a first guide means for mating interaction with a complementary mating guide means on the complementary mating connector, wherein the guide means are arranged on an upper face of the connector assembly.

19. (original) The connector assembly as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the first guide means is attached to the main housing.

20. (original) The connector assembly as claimed Claim 17, further comprising:

a second guide means for mating interaction with a complementary mating guide means of the mating connector, wherein the second guide means is arranged on a lower face of the connector assembly, opposite the upper face.

21. (original) The connector assembly as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the module housings each have a receptacle for detachable attachment of the second guide means, and wherein the second guide means are attachable to the connector assembly at various positions.

22. (original) The connector assembly as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the second guide means comprises two or more separate guide elements.

23. (original) The connector assembly as claimed in Claim 17, further comprising:

a baseplate being arranged on a lower face of the connector assembly, opposite the upper face.

24. (original) The connector assembly as claimed in Claim 23, wherein the second guide means is integrally formed with the baseplate.

25. (original) The connector assembly as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the first and second guide means form a polarity-reversal protection or coding.

26. (original) The connector assembly as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the connector modules form a stack, and wherein the main housing is essentially L-shaped, and covers an upper face and a rear face of the stack.

27. (original) The connector assembly as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the module housings each have at least a peg, and the main housing has a plurality of corresponding openings, with the pegs and the openings forming press fits.

28. (currently amended) A method for assembling of a modular electrical connector assembly, comprising the following steps:

manufacturing a plurality of connector modules, wherein a module housing is provided in each case, a shield is fitted to each of the module housings, a plurality of terminals is inserted into each of the module housings, and the terminals are mounted in each of the module housings τ_i

providing of a main housing i and τ

inserting of the connector modules into the main housing τ_i

wherein the connector modules are joined together to form a stack before inserting into the main housing, and the stack is inserted as a whole into the main housing, or the connector modules are inserted into the main housing successively, and are joined together in the same step.

29. (original) The method as claimed in Claim 28, wherein the terminals are inserted into channels in the module housing, and a cover is then fitted to the module housing for mounting the terminals in the module housing.

30. (original) The method as claimed in Claim 28, wherein the terminals are pressed into channels in the module housing, and a cover is then pressed onto the module housing for mounting the terminals in the module housing.

31. (original) The method as claimed in Claim 28, wherein the terminals are hot-stamped into channels in the module housing, and a cover is then pressed onto the module housing for mounting the terminals in the module housing.

32. (original) The method as claimed in Claim 28, wherein the connector modules are attached to the main housing form-fit.

33. (original) The method as claimed in Claim 28, wherein the baseplate is attached to the module housings.

34. (original) The method as claimed in Claim 28, wherein, during or after the assembly of the connector modules, at least a guide element, a polarity-reversal protection element or a coding element is inserted.

35. (new) An electrical connector assembly comprising:
an electrical connector with ESD capability for a mating connection to a complementary mating connector, comprising:

a dielectric housing;
a plurality of signal terminals which are
arranged in the housing;

at least a ground terminal with at least a first
contact section and a first spring arm section, with the
first contact section having at least a first and second
contact which form a first and a second contact pair,
respectively, with a mating ground terminal of the
complementary mating connector, with the connector and
the complementary mating connector defining a completely
mated final position, and the ground terminal being
designed so that the first contact pair is opened in said
completely mated final position; and

a complementary mating connector.